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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 003204

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SENSITIVE

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SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: PA POLICE OFFICIAL AMBUSHED IN GAZA
-- MAY 26, 2005 (1500 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: In the Gaza Strip, Egyptian mediators failed to resolve the conflict between Fatah and Hamas over municipal election results in several Gaza municipalities. Armed militants ambushed the convoy of PA anti-riot police chief BG Abdullah Khalil, wounding his bodyguard on the evening of May 25. Palestinians threw firebombs at Israeli vehicles traveling northwest of Ramallah June 25, with no injuries reported. End Summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: Nil.

-- Injury: Nil.

-- Firebombing: Palestinians on May 25 threw two firebombs at Israeli vehicles traveling near Deir Abu Mash'al, northwest of Ramallah. There were no injuries reported from this incident.

3. (SBU) ARRESTS/SECURITY:

-- Curfew/Arrest: The IDF on May 25 entered al-Mughayyir village, southeast of Jenin, and imposed a curfew. The IDF conducted searches and arrested one Fatah activist, before exiting the village.

-- Arrest: The IDF on May 25 arrested a Palestinian teenager at the Bayt Iba checkpoint, near Nablus, who reportedly attempted to snatch the weapons of an IDF soldier stationed at the checkpoint.

4. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- The Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) on May 25 called on the Palestinian Authority to work for the release of PFLP Secretary General Ahmad Sa'dat and other Palestinian

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prisoners incarcerated in Jericho under the supervision of the Jericho Monitoring Mission.

Gaza

5. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: According to the IDF and UNRWA, a Palestinian youth was injured in the western part of Khan Younis when IDF soldiers opened fire on May 25. UNRWA reported that the IDF fired when the youth neared the security fence.

-- Injuries: According to UNRWA, armed militants ambushed the convoy of PA anti-riot police chief BG Abdullah Khalil, wounding his bodyguard in the evening of May 25. UNRWA reported that the militants took weapons and escaped.

-- Mortars/Rockets: According to UNRWA, two mortars were fired, one at the al Zaroub observation post in Rafah on May 25 at 1800 and one at Neve Dekalim on May 26 at 0420. The IDF reported that two anti-tank missiles were fired south of the IDF outpost west of Rafah on May 25 at 1630.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported one shooting at Rafiah Yam Village on May 25 at 12:45 and one shooting south of the IDF outpost west of Rafah on May 25 at 1515. No injuries resulted.

-- Explosions: Nil

16. (SBU) ARRESTS: Nil

17. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil

18. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open May 26, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open May 25, and 3,800 laborers and 307 merchants entered.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open May 25, and 627 laborers entered.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers May 26, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open May 26.

-- Rafah Terminal was open May 26 for arrivals and departures.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed May 26. Toufah checkpoint was open May 26 for residents of al-Mowassi, except males aged 16-30.

19. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: Media sources reported that a five-hour meeting between Egyptian mediators and Hamas leaders in Gaza May 25 failed to resolve the conflict between Fatah and Hamas over municipal elections in Gaza. The mediation is supposed to continue into the week. Media sources also reported that Hamas political bureau chief Khaled Meshal accused Fatah May 25 of buying votes in the upcoming elections revote in a number of municipalities in the Gaza Strip.

--According to UNRWA, approximately 12,000 Fatah supporters demonstrated in the middle camps in a show of strength during May 25.

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